

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 remain in the application and have been amended hereby. Claims 5 and 10-20 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Replacement sheets for Fig. 1 and Fig. 5 are submitted herewith addressing the objections set forth in the Office Action at paragraphs 1 and 2.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Tokura et al. in view of Kawai.

Features of the apparatus and method according to the present invention are the detection of a loop connection in an IEEE 1394 bus and the displaying of a warning message related to the loop connection on a display unit of the apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Takura et al. in view of Kawai fails to show or suggest at least the displaying of a warning message related to an IEEE 1394 loop connection on a display unit of the apparatus in response to the detection of the loop connection.

Takura et al. relates to a switching means for automatically correcting a detected loop connection. No user intervention is needed and no display is shown or suggested in Tokura et al, and the Office Action cites Fig. 2 and Figs. 4A-B of Kawai as curing this deficiency.

It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to combine Tokura et al. with Kawai without using the present invention as a template, that is, without using impermissible hindsight.

Applicants fail to find any suggestion of modifying Tokura et al. to provide a display for displaying a warning message related to an IEEE 1394 loop connection. Tokura et al. is automatically switching connections to correct a detected loop connection and is silent about using a display. What would be the motivation to add a display to warn a user of a detected loop connection when the reference is teaching the automatic correction of that condition?

The Examiner suggests replacing the switching of step S7 in Fig. 3 of Tokura et al. with an LCD monitor to display a warning message related to a detected IEEE 1394 loop connection. It is respectfully submitted that Tokura et al. teaches away from that suggestion by providing for the automatic switching of connections to correct the loop connection. No warning message of the condition is necessary or desired in Tokura et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 6, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable distinct over Tokura et al. in view of Kawai.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" being clearly legible, and "H." as a small middle initial.

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JHM/PCF:pmc